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CD NO.

COUNTRY Belgium

SUBJECT Communist "Action Committee" at

CLASSIFICATION

250xtAdaAntwerp

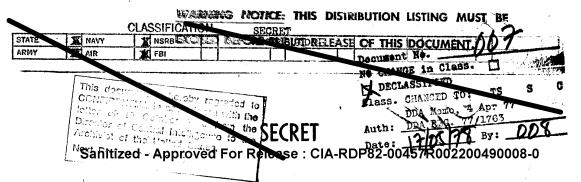
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SUPPLEMENT TO

25X1X6F REPORT NO 20 19051

- The Dockworkers' Action Committee of Antwerp was formed by Communists and Trotskyites at the time of the first post-war dock strikes in 1946. Since to Action Committee made no effort to conceal its opposition to the policies of the B.T.B. (Belgian Transport Workers, Union) and the A.B.V.V. (General Belg an Association of Unions), the B.T.B. expelled the leaders of the Committee for insubordination in the summer of 1947. Although the Action Committee is controlled by the Communist Party and leaders of the Committee, such as Loui Philips and Frans van den Branden, take part in Communist-sponsored activiti s. the identity of the Committee appears to remain distinct from that of the Pa ty in the minds of the dockworkers.
- 2. Before the sailing of the "American Judge" from Antwerp on 25 November 1948, Communist handbills were left in the quarters of the officers and crew. The text, which was edited and published by Felix van den Bergh, Communist Deput for Antwerp in the Belgian Parliament, inveighed against capitalist warmonge ing, the Taft-Hartley Bill, and the proceedings against such American Communists (s Foster and Dennis. More recently, Frans van den Branden placed in among the cargo of an American ship subversive tracts which he had received from Alber-Deconinck, Political Secretary of the Antwerp Federation of the Belgian Communist Party. On the same occasion, he is reported to have painted a red hammer an sickle on a number of sacks of cement which were loaded for shipment to the United States.
- 3. There follows a list of Action Committee members with personal details such a are known to us:
 - a. Frans Van Den Branden; heads Action Committee; Communist; outstanging propagandist; frequently speaks at meetings; born 23 April 1914 in Antworp; present address: 8 Terliststraat, Antwerp.
 - b. Louis Philips (Lodewijk); Secretary of Action Committee; likely Communist; distributes tracts and speaks at meetings; born 26 October 1912 is Antwerp; present address: 91 Rue van Kerckhoven, Antwerp.
 - c. Petrus Van Den Branden; Communist; lacks intelligence of brother Frans, but follows his lead; born 19 September 1905 in Antwerp; present address: 38 Rue Clara Snelling, Deurne.



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- d. Josephus Tan Dijok; Communist; active; propagandist; born 25 October 1886 In Vorselasy; present address: 27 Nikkelstraat, Antwerp.
- e. Constant Mertens; Communist; speaker; born 18 October 1896; present.
- f. Pierre Coulemans; Communist; born 15 June 1919 in Borgerhout; present address: 97 Cordersoweg, Ekoron.
- g. Albert Wouters; Communist; active member of Committee; born \$9 Becember 1904 at Borgerhout; present address: 49 van Pecnestraat, Antwerp
- h. Hichel Brillo; reported non-Communist; no longer very active; born 21 May 1908 in Antwerp; present address: 27 Lange Zavelstraat, Antwerp.
- 6. She following Action Committee members were expelled from the B.T.B. in August, 1947:
 - a. Gustaaf Delanote; Communist; active Committee member; considered dangerous; born 11 August 1915 in Ronsbrugge; present address: 45 Kattenberg. Ekeren.
 - b. Corneel Bracekmans; active; born 4 April 1899 in Antwerp; present address: 117 Brammstraat, Schoten.
 - c. Patrus Mees; Communist; very active; born 3 October 1912 in Antwexp; present address: 63 Louis Hendriksstraat, Schoten.
 - d. Jan Censters; active and dangerous; born 20 November 1908 in Antwerp; present address: 278 Luchtbal, Antwerp.
 - e. Friderik Van De Cruys; born 16 June 1913 in Antwerp; present address: 24 Lange Achterometraat, Antwerp.
 - f. Frans Mous; Communist; may have withdrawn from Action Committee; bein 1 May 1902 in Antworp; present address: 107 Lange Slachterijstraat, Antworp.
 - g. Alfredus Trommelen; reportedly no longer active; born 4 July 1904 in Antwerp; present address: 50 Rue Lamoriniere, Antwerp.
 - h. Hubert Van Dunneghem; moderate; not very active; born 25 April 1909 in Autwerp; present address: 143 Noord Schippersdok, Antwerp.
 - is Joseph De Rijek; pre-war Communist; activity not apparent but probably operates behind the scenes; born 28 April 1899 in Tensche (Tamise).
- 5. Liuison between the Action Committee and the BCP is said to be maintained by Albert Minnebo. 33, living at 58 Lindenstraat, Burcht.
- 6. When Frans Van Den Branden was obliged to speak at a B.T.B. meeting in Antwerpearly in 1946, the following Trotskyites withdrew from the Action Committee because they considered his act treacherous:
 - a. Pierre Dorremans; born 14 March 1890 in Antwerp; present address: 65 Handelstraat, Antwerp.
 - b. Ludovicus Victor; born 14 October 1903 in Antwerp; present address: 22 Spaarstrast, Aftworp.
 - c. Kerel De Cock; born 11 November 1918 in Bournemouth, England; present address: 14 Esschenstraat, Antwerp.
- 7. Jan Baptist van Son, 32, in September, 1948 circulated a broadside which he had reportedly written, attacking Frans van den Branden for being a lackey of the Communists and defending the Trotskyite, Pierre Dorremans. Since this incident, van Son has apparently disassociated himself from the Action Committee.

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